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03500.014572.

PATENT APPLICATION

#5



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

TSUKASA OGINO

Application No.: 09/597,145

Filed: June 20, 2000

For: NETWORK STATUS
SERVER, INFORMATION
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM,
CONTROL METHOD, AND
STORAGE MEDIUM FOR
STORING CONTROL
PROGRAM

Examiner: K. Flynn

Group Art Unit: 2153

RECEIVED

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Technology Center 2100

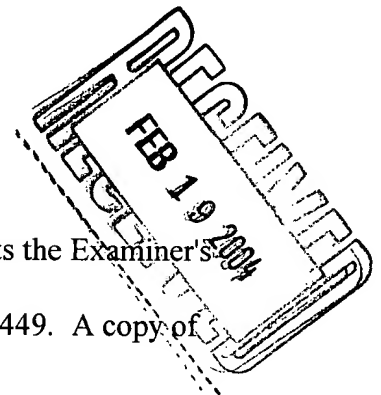
February 12, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the documents listed is enclosed.



Europe 0 959 601

J.D. Guyton, et al., "Locating Nearby Copies Of Replicated Internet Servers", Computer Communication Review, Association For Computing Machinery, New York, US, Vol. 25, No. 4, pp. 288-298, October 1, 1995.

Z. Fei, et al., "A Novel Server Selection Technique for Improving the Response Time of a Replicated Service", IEEE Infocom '98 17th Annual Joint Conference of the IEEE Computer and Communications Societies IEEE San Francisco, CA, USA, March 29-April 2, 1998, pp. 783-791.

P. Francis, et al., "An Architecture for a Global Internet Host Distance Estimation Service", IEEE Infocom '99. The Conference On Computer Communications. 18th Annual Joint Conference of the IEEE Computer and Communications Societies. New York, NY, March 21-25, 1999, Vol. 1, pp. 210-217.

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report dated December 30, 2003 is enclosed.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicant with the next communication.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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